#### The voice of integrity at Fort Hays State University

# The edge

April 6, 2006; Volume 1, Issue 12 Hays, Kansas 67601

# Strike

TYLER MESSENGER/THE EDGE

Pitcher Bobby Lewton throws a baseball for the Tigers. The team is off to a great start this season.

## Landlord/tenant forum answers student questions

Robert Cummins Staff Writer

Last week, SGA sponsored a seminar to educate students about issues concerning them while renting property.

"One of the most common legal issues students face are a landlord/tenant situation," said Shala Mills, associate professor and host of the event.

Mills said that the best method for dealing with any issues that might arise is good documentation. By submitting any grievance with a landlord in writing, it affords the tenant protection should they choose to terminate the lease due to violations by the landlord. Mills advises renters to keep copies of the rental agreement and that all other agreements should be written down, signed and dated by both parties. Any agreements made orally between landlord and tenant can become problematic and difficult to enforce.

Mills said that another common issue students ask about is the subject of the security deposit. Students should understand that these deposits cannot exceed a single months rent as described by law, and students should never

SEE 'LANDLORD' ON PAGE 8



## Candidate Cookoff

**Drew Thomas** 

The focus of our campaign is to empower the students of FHSU to have a greater say in their University and work in the best interests of all students.

We have put together our platform in an effort to benefit all the students of FHSU. This includes giving students a greater say in student fees that

affect each of us. Also we want students to have a say before they pay additional student fees.

We believe that all students and not just the membership of SGA should have a say on fee increases. In addition, establishing a fee review process that ensures greater accountability for those entities that receive student fee dollars.

In addition, we also seek to provide students with the best services FHSU can of-



fer by providing support for the current efforts to improve the Wellness Center.

Another service we wish to improve is the SGA Book Exchange. Students could utilize this service to decrease the purchase price of many of their books and increase their return on selling their old books. We

also would work to support efforts to increase recycling on campus. The last issue on our platform is making your voices heard in City Hall, the State Legislature and beyond.

However, we do not seek to limit ourselves to just our platform. We encourage input from all of you on issues that

SEE 'THOMAS' ON PAGE 8

## SGA presidential candidates square off in an *Edge* exclusive point/counterpoint debate

Our campaign focuses on the central theme of "Breaking the Barrier." Communication and collaboration are two key components to the success of any organization or project, and we have seen them lacking here at Fort Hays State University between student senators, the administration and students as a

whole. We plan to break this barrier by establishing a mandatory one-hour-per-week, office-hour for student senators. This will allow the elected senators' constituents to meet with them regularly and will allow those senators to utilize the resources made available by the executive staff. We will also establish a president's council. This will bring together student leaders of all campus organizations once a month to work in a cooperative setting ultimately

#### Doug Cure



sharing ideas and resources. To continue to improve communication, we plan to meet with each student organization at the beginning of the year to help set out a coordinated game plan for activities and events.

According to current plans, mobile learning will be a reality in Fall of 2007. We realize

the concerns of students on this issue and want to ensure that the correct decisions are made with the student's interests in mind. We both serve as members of the Mobile Computing Task Force and have worked hard to ensure that the needs of the students are put first in the planning of the initiative. We will continue to work hard to

SEE 'CURE' ON PAGE 8



#### **EDITORIAL**

# ▼ on the edge FHSU lacks enough classes

This time of year everyone is trying to get into classes - key word, "trying."

It is becoming more and more common that students cannot find classes required for their major that also fit into the rest of their schedule.

This has caused frustration for many FHSU students. The question becomes, then, "Is this trouble necessary." Perhaps.

Finding qualified instructors to move to the desolate Kansas plains cannot be easy, and finding a balance between the number of instructors and a balanced budget cannot be easy, either.

This, however, does not alleviate frustration for students, especially underclassmen.

Also, class requirements within each department have regular changes to the requirements for the B.A. degree, creating more stress for students trying hard to finish their undergrad and continue on to other endeavors. When every time a student gets a degree summary and the requirements have changed, this is a problem.

There is no easy solution and the problem will most likely not be resolved soon, so when it comes to registering for classes, let's all take a deep breath. Relax, then have a communal scream.

It wont get you in the class you want, but you will feel better.

The Editorial Board

#### Students should get more involved



James Bell Assistant Editor

Oh SGA how we love thee... Allocations, elections, drama, drama, drama, but what else can you expect from this glorified high school we love so much.

While the mess with allocations created an outburst from the student body, or at least one from the people who perceived that they did not get the funding they deserved, the SGA was only addressing issues of upset student organizations.

Yes, I am talking about the Leader. You didn't get as much funding as you wanted - sorry. However, don't think people did not notice that the other organizations trying to 'give' the Leader money were friends of the Leader. And while it was touching to read how Astronomy Club President Meghan Tucker turned down offers of \$1,500 to her unfunded club, instead wanting it to go to the Leader, the Leader failed to report that she currently works as a photographer for that publication. While everyone has heard my long and vicious rants on the Leader, I feel that a lot of the Allocations fiasco could have been avoided without their influence - but I digress. The problem here at FHSU with SGA is the complete lack of professionalism of our senators, but do the senators deserve the blame? Oh no, my dear FHSU students, they do not – you do.

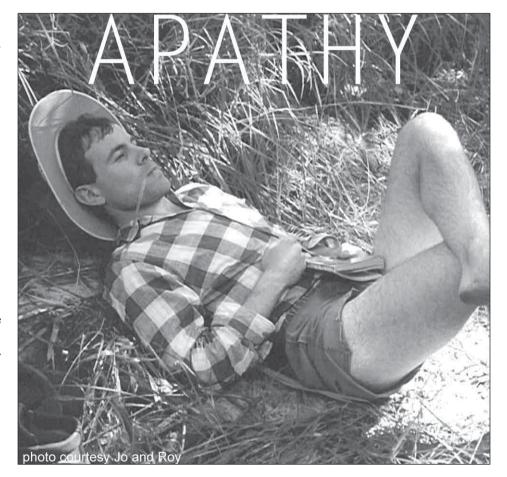
Maybe not the smarter than average reader of *The Edge*, but for sure the bulk of the student body deserve all the glorious credit for SGA blunders. So I am offering you a challenge: go right now and find out who is running for the senate seats in your college and find out whether

or not they deserve to represent you. Your senator is your voice, they are you in spirit, and if they don't agree with you, find someone who does and vote for them. If no one agrees with you, run for office yourself! Many seats last year went unfilled. Yes, my dear student, you could be in SGA, and who knows, it may be something that you enjoy and you may just improve life for many a FHSU student.

To borrow from one of my favorite movies, Democracy is advanced citizenship. You have got to want it bad cause it is going to put up a fight. The student body is being run over, continually by being poorly informed. The mal-aligned representatives in SGA, the govern-

ment, and the private sector are ruling the lives of average FHSU student and the students don't seem to notice.

Thomas Jefferson provided that democracy would continue as long as the citizens of a democratic government were educated. Each and every one of you that stands up and say you love freedom and democracy, but fail in your duty to seek out knowledge, is nothing but a hypocrite, and you are giving comfort to the enemy. I mean republicans. A little over 800 people voted in the SGA elections last year — everyone else must be ignorant haters of freedom. I mean freshman, this is not high school anymore. You drive the destiny of FHSU. What are you going to do with it?



#### The edge

Mission: *The Edge* newspaper staff strives to act as a voice of integrity on the campus of Fort Hays State University. *The Edge* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach every article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

Disclaimer: *The Edge* is a completely independent publication. *The Edge* is neither funded nor sponsored by Fort Hays State University. The views expressed herein reflect only the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of any person affiliated with the university.

Letters to the editor can be sent to edgenewspaper@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 674, Hays, KS 67601. Letters must include name, address, class or title and telephone number for verification purposes. *The Edge* reserves the right to edit letters and publication is not guaranteed. Each person is entitled to one (1) copy of The Edge. Removal of multiple copies is considered theft.

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**▼** Justice Jive

#### Prisoner education prevents recidivism



Martha
J. Jones
Justice
Studies

Prison literacy education is a controversial subject. Some regard education as a privilege that inmates do not deserve. Legislators have difficulty giving top priority to correctional education.

For correctional literacy education to be given priority, it is necessary to convince legislators that correctional education reduces recidivism and is cost effective.

Despite the controversy, one can conclude that poor reading skills is a mitigating factor in determining who goes to jail.

It stands to reason that literacy education in prison is needed

to give prisoners the life skills necessary to be productive and become law-abiding, taxpaying citizens.

The federal prison system began mandatory literacy in 1982, with the sixth grade as the literacy standard and a mandatory enrollment of 90 days.

In 1986, the standard was increased to the eighth grade level.

In 1991, the achievement standard was raised to a high school diploma or General Educational Development certificate and the required enrollment period was increased to 120 days.

The problem lies in the fact that the mandatory literacy programs only apply to federal prisons. Only five percent of the prison population is located in federal institutions; 65 percent are in state prisons and 25 percent are in county or local jails.

The percentage of prisoners in state institutions attending lit-

eracy class varies. Kentucky has 86 percent enrolled, where as Nebraska has 7 percent.

Overall, only 7 to 10 percent of inmates with low literacy skills receive literacy education while incarcerated.

Prisoners with low literacy levels favored mandatory literacy programs and are more than willing to learn to read, but prison literacy programs are constrained by limited budgets, lack of resources and lack of public support.

In the absence of any federal policy-setting requirements, each state operates on its own.

There is no consistency in standards, procedures or philosophy when administering and deciding who can attend literacy programs.

Some states require all inmates to work both but offer no choice for education. Other states require neither work nor school attendance. A few states offer inmates a choice and provide flexible schedules to do both.

Those states that do offer literacy education to inmates vary in governance patterns.

In most states, the department of corrections is in charge of education. Some states literacy programs are governed by the department of education. In 10 states, school districts have been established solely to serve correctional institutions, thereby assuring that the funding for correctional literacy programs does not have to compete with other educational programs.

Considering that the average cost to teach an inmate to read is \$1600 and the annual cost to house an inmate averages \$25,000, every dollar spent on literacy education yields a 200-300 percent return.

It would seem that preventing even one inmate from returning

to prison would justify the cost of the literacy education.

Mastery of literacy skills may be the preventive and proactive solution to decreasing the prison population. There needs to be a change in policy to make literacy education mandatory in all correctional settings. Standards and procedures based on effective literacy programs should be implemented in all institutions. Inmate inclusion into literacy programs should follow the guidelines set by the federal prison system.

All correctional literacy programs reduce recidivism rates. Quality literacy programs have consistently reduced recidivism by 16-62 percent. The more education the offenders receive, the lower the recidivism rates.

Education deprivation should not be used as punishment. Instead, literacy education should be considered the ultimate weapon in the war of crime.

▼ Letter to the Editor

## Bush has led nation astray

Our nation is in great need of leadership. We need HONESTY in our government officials. Right now, for a President, we have a man that never stays in one place long enough to do a days work, and the fact is, that even if he didn't spend most of his time flying in his air plane, trying to keep away from the White House. I remain convinced that he wouldn't know how to govern if he *was* there. It is embarrassing, to see the leader of the most powerful nation in the world, stammering and stuttering, searching for words. If it isn't written on a page, this poor man is at a complete loss. I pity this man! From my view, this is how I see it: George is good at two things. He loves to *smile* and *shake hands*. He is *good* at that! But smiling and shaking hands, won't govern a nation!

Unpolished ways, is how he has been described. Take my word for it, that boy is no diamond in the rough! He tells us that someone else will be the one that brings our troops home from this civil war, that we find ourselves in the midst of. He certainly didn't mean to blurt that out, but like I have implied, it scares me, just imagining what could come forth from his mouth. So unpredictable, that it's scary. If you can, try to imagine the apprehension of his confidants, his policy planners, his speech writers, and for that matter his Vice-President, when he goes before an audience, whether it's news reporters, or whatever. Bush is a loose cannon.

Our country needs a leader. Our nation needs a man or

woman that can *THINK!!!* Someone that can plan ahead, and figure out how to meet our nation's responsibilities. Right now we don't have such a person, at the helm. Bush is such a miserable excuse for a leader. He doesn't have a clue how to save face, and try to extradite us, from this bloody war, that I refer to as "Bush's War." We are in there now, and he doesn't know how to get us out of this predicament, that is of his own making.

I am angry as hell. I want to see other people get angry. I want people to start thinking about the value of their vote, their voice. It is the *only* voice we have. We don't use it correctly, or this man would not be in this office, flying around in his private plane, trying to keep out of harm's way, meaning staying out of the White House. I really believe he is *afraid* to be in D.C. I don't think he is half as brave as he would like all of us to believe. What I see is a man on the run. I for one, would like to see this miserable excuse for a President, run right out of D.C. on a rail.

If you people can't get angry when you consider that he engaged us in this unnecessary war, then find it in your hearts to get angry over the needless loss of humanity that lies at the foot of this person. I give Bush credit for all this human carnage. Who else engaged us? There are other ways to deal with the Husseins' and the Bin Ladens' in this world. Killing innocent civilians, and killing and maiming our young men and women, is not the answer! It never was the answer! But, Bush knew best. They would greet

us with open arms, as their saviors, so to speak. Only an idiot would have thought that. If a person knows one thing about Arabs, then we know that they are a warring people. Of course, those people want freedom, but until they have a will to put their hearts into it, who are we to impose our own will on these people? We are not the saviors of the world. We can't even take care of the needs of our own people.

I wonder what will be left when this person leaves the White House? That is some kind of a joke. Our borders are being walked all over, the south is in shambles, poverty, and hungry little mouths can be found across our own country, our jobs are being shipped out all over the world, and we find ourselves in a civil war, in anyone's language. I could go on and on, but what's the use. We need a house cleaning in Washington, and we need to give our precious vote to people that deserve our confidence, to people that will be ever vigilant over the needs of our private citizens. Elected officials are not designated to do the bidding of Big Business.

We send folks there to take care of the interest of our nation's citizens, and it's time they were reminded of that fact. The best way to remind them is with our vote. Rummy needs to go, and that can't wait, and so does the rest of Bush's cronies, including the Great White Hunter.

#### **Marguerite Strohl**

The Edge Subscriber



### TigerTracks not yet fully embraced

#### James Bell Assistant Editor

The FHSU web portal, recently launched, has become a fully functional tool for FHSU students, but remains under utilized by a large portion of the student body.

While its technical aspects are working and integrated as planned, many students do not utilize TigerTracks regularly.

Trevor Duell, a music major, said he uses TigerTracks, "a little, not much."

Duell said one of the main services offered by TigerTracks, access to FHSU email, he does not use. He still prefers to check his

email through webmail, directly..

A feature of TigerTracks he likes, however, is announcements to the students. Duell said, "They are helpful, when they pertain to me."

Robert Jay, an information networking and telecommunications major said, "I really don't use it. If it is something they want us to use everyday, they need to put on some killer applications."

The ability to check transcripts on TigerTracks is another tool, but Jay said the old method, using Student Web Services, "presents the grades in a format much easier to follow."

In general, Jay said, "I haven't

found any reason to use it."

Kurtis Linenberger, a business major, said he "rarely" uses Tiger Tracks and he said he, "mainly looks at blackboard and scatcat for information."

Another INT major, Will Pracht, said he thought, "some more planning should have been done."

Pracht's main concern was the look of TigerTracks. "The first thing I would do is change the aesthetics of it – the graphics are very poorly done," he said. "The functionality is fairly well written, working for the most part.

"The codes they used, u-portal – KU uses the same thing – their

site is better and K-State's is miles above ours.

"Even KU's looks kinda thrown together." Pracht said.

It may, "be a problem using uportal. If they were to move from that to something the students have created, it would be better," he added. He said this would be, "possible if they searched the right places"

Although Pracht said Tiger-Tracks is a good idea, "It is not what it should be. I don't blame anyone but it should have been planned better."

FHSU students can log onto TigerTracks at https://tigertracks.fhsu.edu.

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#### Features

▼ SGA President

## Eisenhour looks back on term

#### Robert Cummins Staff Writer

With her term as SGA president winding down and the spring SGA elections nigh, Kiley Eisenhour took a moment to reflect on the opportunity she's had and the accomplishments she's achieved over the past academic year

"I've been very honored to serve in this position," Eisenhour said, adding that the experience has helped her learn a lot about herself, especially as a leader. She will step down at the end of the year and is not seeking re-election, although she will still be at FHSU.

Kiley Eisenhour was voted SGA president during last year's spring elections.

"One thing we definitely wanted to stress was getting more input from students," Eisenhour

said. Improvements were made to hopefully increase student involvement in SGA as well as to increase feedback so that officers could hear student opinions. Eisenhour believes those steps have been effective, as she saw especially high interest during the allocations process, in which roughly half-a-million dollars is divided among various student groups, bringing about strong emotion about which groups deserve more or less money.

During her campaign in spring of 05, Eisenhour ran a platform for support of mobile computing at FHSU. Eisenhour said that SGA has been involved in raising awareness of the mobile computing initiative and educating the student body about the proposal.

"I definitely think mobile computing will happen at some level," Eisenhour said.

Eisenhour did admit that the mobile computing initiative could be problematic for FHSU. "I think if it's implemented right, it can be a good move," Eisenhour said. To make mobile computing successful, it will require support from all parties involved, including all students, faculty, and staff, Eisenhour said.

Eisenhour also ran in support of an ROTC program, or Reserve Officer's Training Corps. Such a program would allow students additional opportunities to earn funding for school. However, the idea was met with a mixed response. "I really though there would be a lot more interest," Eisenhour said.

While doing a survey to detect student interest in such a program, less than five students showed serious interest in such a program, well short of the manda-

tory 35 required to implement the program, Eisenhour said. "I think the ROTC (program) could be revisited, maybe not next year, but in years to come," she said.

Another platform Eisenhour ran on was to initiate student advisory committees within each of the colleges, but she is still currently working on getting that implemented. "We have been meeting with all of the Deans this semester," Eisenhour said. She expects that the student advisory committees will be implemented starting next fall.

Next year, while she will no longer be SGA president, she hopes to continue making positive contributions on campus as a student. "I'm just planning on getting involved in different areas, and I'm really looking forward to it," Eisenhour said. Activities that she would like to



Eisenhour

become more involved in include Big Brothers Big Sisters and Tigers in Service.

Eisenhour wanted to thank the students at FHSU for choosing her to represent them as SGA president this past year.

"Thank you for affording me this opportunity," she said.

BRADLEY J. BECKER

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#### Times Talk looks at global warming

Robert Cummins Staff Writer

Global warming. The thought that human activity could slowly be damaging the planet's ecosystem is both frightening and confusing to many Americans.

On Tuesday, John Heinrichs, Assistant Professor of Geosciences, presented a Times Talk forum called, "Turning Up the Heat on the Future: Global Warming and its Consequences."

During the talk, Heinrichs explained the basics behind global warming and presented multiple studies showing its effects on various climates around the world.

"This is my specialty, arctic climatology," Heinrichs said.

Heinrichs explained that certain gases, namely carbon dioxide and methane work in the atmosphere to trap infrared light that over time will raise temperatures on Earth. Heinrichs explained that this is what is known as the greenhouse effect, without witch the earth would be roughly 30 degrees Celsius cooler than it is now. An extreme example of the greenhouse effect can be seen on the planet Venus, where greenhouse gases have fostered extremely high temperatures.

Since pre-industrial times, greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have increased dramatically. Methane has nearly doubled, while carbon dioxide has gone up 35 percent, according to Heinrichs. This is important because prior to the 1800s, greenhouse gases had been very stable, not changing for 1,000 years.

"We have seen a global warming of about one degree Celsius in the last 150 years," he said.

Heinrichs said that the increased temperatures have caused oceanic polar ice to start melting. Temperatures in the polar regions have increased greater than anywhere else. This has caused the sea ice to begin melting, eventually causing the sea level to rise. Heinrichs explained that half a billion people live in costal areas with only one meter of elevation. If the sea level were to rise even a meter or two, all of those people would have to relocate.

Sea ice is currently decreasing at eight percent per decade. The significance of this is that the artic ocean has not been ice free in the past 30 million years.

Heinrichs said sea ice is important because of a concept called positive feedback. The col-

or white reflects light, meaning that continental ice sheets and sea ice reflect a significant amount of light away from the planet. Darker colors absorb light rather than reflect, meaning that the more ice that melts, the more light absorbed by the earth and the higher the temperature will get, causing additional melting and even higher temperatures, Heinrichs said.

"The increase in temperature is greatest in winter time," Heinrichs said, adding this is evidence of a smoking gun in that it shows us that global warming is due to human activity and not another source, such as the sun. Heinrich explained that if the solar changes were causing global warming, then the effects would be seen during the day and summer months most notably. But the effects are best seen in polar regions at night and during winter months. "That is a very clear piece of evidence that it is not the sun that is behind the warming we have been seeing," Heinrichs said.

Heinrichs stated that the past 100 years have been warmer than the past 1000 years, and we have been seeing less sea ice during that time. Heinrichs explained that we can see the continental ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica getting smaller.

One study he described used satellites that moved closer together or farther apart based on the mass of the object they are passing over. By measuring the distance between the satellites, researchers can ascertain the mass of the object. Using these satellites shows that the overall mass of the ice sheets has been decreasing about 50 years ahead of predictions.

Heinrichs explained the concept of thermal inertia, meaning it takes a lot of energy to begin melting a mass of ice as large as these and that it would take years to even begin the process. Heinrichs said that these masses are melting ahead of schedule. "This is incredibly profound," Heinrichs said.

Each study is showing exactly what is predicted to happen, and all recent studies have shown mass loss in Antarctica and nearly all show mass loss in Greenland. "These numbers are actually in fairly good agreement," Heinrichs said.

"Are we at the tipping point – a point of no return?" Heinrichs asked. Heinrichs said this is the question that everyone is asking.

Now that glacial melting has begun, it will take 100-150 years of cooler temperatures worldwide to stop, Heinrichs said.

"We are conducting a long term experiment with the earth that we don't really know the outcome of," Heinrichs said.

Heinrichs said that long term predictions expect carbon dioxide emissions to peak during this century, but then decline steeply. However, the carbon emissions and higher temperatures will remain for centuries.

Heinrichs stated how to deal with global warming will be the defining issue of our grandchildren's generation. Lowering energy consumption, planting trees and driving hybrid cars will not be enough to reverse the drastic changes that have already been made to the global climate.

"We should be doing it, but it better not be all we're doing," he said. "Our standard of living must decrease to address this problem. We must be willing to sacrifice some of our comforts for the sake of energy efficiency."

Heinrichs says personal housing, where only one family dwells, is a major waste of energy. He said that high density housing would cost less to heat and cool, though at the sacrifice of privacy and personal space.

Heinrichs said that besides the polar climates, regions much like Kansas will see the second greatest change caused by global warming. Heinrichs said that the climate here would continue to get warmer and dryer, eventually making farming very expensive or impossible. Heinrichs said that changes could already be seen in insect movements, as fire ants are moving north of Texas to cooler climates, and pine beetles are moving in to Canada.

"To take a long term view is the cultural change we need to have," Heinrichs said. "The problem we face is that to combat global warming means giving up any luxuries we have in the short term for the sake of the extreme long term, something many people are not willing to do."

Heinrichs said that we have an opportunity here to do it voluntarily during our generation, but in 100 to 150 years, there will be no choice, and methods for controlling global temperatures will be imposed on us.

"To bring these emissions under control, we had to have started yesterday," Heinrichs said.

▼ rhe edge

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#### **Events**

**FHSU Rodeo** will be all day April 6th.

Presidential Lecture, "Children: The Invisible Victims of War" by Dr. Martin Parsons will be April 6th in the Memorial Union Ballroom from 7:00-9:00pm.

2nd Annual Dodgeball Tournament in Cunnigham120&121.

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#### Why vote for me?

#### Candidates sum it up

Doug Cure & Kameron Davis

Senators Doug Cure and Kameron Davis have a combined 5 years of experience on SGA here at FHSU serving students. They plan to work hard to "break the barrier," and continue to serve students' interests.

> Drew Thomas & Derek Osburn

Our focus is not only on increasing the amount of communication, but also empowering all students to take part in the decision making process, because actions speak louder than slogans.

#### **Thomas**

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

concern you. Our issues are available on our Facebook group Thomas/Osburn 2006. We can also be reached at thomasosburn2006@hotmail.com.

Last year, just over 800 students cast their ballots in the SGA elections. SGA exists to represent your interests to faculty, administration, and government officials.

This is your University and we want to work with you to make it even better. So please take the opportunity to make your voice heard and cast your ballot on April 12 or 13.

We ask you to vote Thomas/Osburn, which is a vote to empower you to address real concerns with real solutions.

#### Counterpoint

Our opponents have laid out a platform that claims to address real concerns with real solutions.

Fortunately, many of the real solutions are already in the works. Currently, the SGA Senate Affairs Committee is working to establish a Student Fee Review Committee, which will be responsible for overseeing any requests for increases to student fees. Students will have a voice through this committee to help say how their money is spent.

They are also working to revitalize the SGA Book Exchange. This has already been discussed by the Student Affairs Committee on SGA and a new exchange could feasibly be ready before the end of this semester.

However, this may not be the best course of action for FHSU students. Instead of limiting ourselves to a smaller number of users on an FHSU Book Exchange, why not utilize the vast resources of the Internet to have access to thousands of books at great prices? We can establish partnerships with major online book exchanges and provide students with a greater selection and even lower prices.

We do welcome increasing recycling efforts and improving the wellness center. Both would be beneficial to our campus and students. We would likewise seek to continue these efforts.

Finally, our opponents state that they will make students' voices heard throughout City Hall and the State Legislature.

This is a very important responsibility of the President of SGA. We believe that is not merely a platform issue, but instead a prime responsibility of the office that should be a top priority of any candidate.

#### Cure -

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ensure that the needs of the students are put first in the planning of the initiative. We will continue to work hard to make sure that the initiative will be implemented in a way that is best and affordable for students. Another major element of our campaign is revitalizing homecoming festivities. Over the past several years, student participation in homecoming has dwindled. We plan to reverse this and work with student organizations to create new activities for students to enjoy not only homecoming weekend but throughout the entire week leading up to homecoming.

While keeping costs affordable, we want to continue to improve the University's image to the outside world. "Affordable Success" has served its purpose, and it is time to move on. We propose working with students and the University Marketing Committee to work on ways to emphasize our value as being a successful high quality, high tech institution while continuing to keep our costs low.

For more information on our campaign, please visit our website at www.curedavis.com. We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us "break the barrier," at the polls this April 12 and 13.

#### **Counterpoint**

The Cure/Davis focus on increasing communication at FHSU is an admirable one, but ultimately one that is extremely difficult to measure. Ideas of seeking student input, listening to student concerns, and visiting student groups are often addressed by those seeking any SGA position. All of these goals are in no way mutually exclusive from the platform we are running on.

However, one critical difference exists in our approach. Our focus is not only on increasing the amount of communication, but also empowering all students to be a part of the decision making process. This is the embodiment of our "Have A Say Before You Pay" platform issue. We want to increase information on the flow of your student fee dollars and give you a say when those fees are set to increase. Also we seek to improve services available to you by supporting the Wellness Center, revitalizing the SGA Online Book Exchange and increasing recycling on our campus. We put together our platform after seeking out student input on the change that many of those we spoke with wanted to see. While we have great confidence in our platform we do not seek to limit ourselves to just our platform. In this way we want to remain open to handle any concerns you might have and address any concerns that might arise. For these reasons, we ask you to vote Thomas/ Osburn, which is a vote to empower you to have a real say in your SGA.

#### Landlord

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think that it could be used as a substitute for the final month's rent, as doing so could forfeit the deposit while still leaving the rent unpaid, Mills said.

Mills said that the best advice students could use while looking for a home or apartment to rent is to shop with care.

Look very carefully at the residence, at its construction and location, she said, adding that students should speak to people in the community to find out what kind of reputation the renter has. "That's the best you can do is (to hear good) word of mouth," Mills said.

"It is important that you pick your roommates well," Mills said.

If a roommate should move out or fail to pay for their respective share of rent or damages to the property, the other tenants are still responsible for that amount of the rent, Mills said.

If a tenant wishes to terminate a lease early, they can do so if they provide written notice of their grievance to the landlord and allow fourteen days for the landlord to attempt a good faith resolution.

If no resolution is found, then a thirty day written notice would be required to legally terminate a lease early, Mills said.

Mills said that many students had questions concerning their obligations to their landlords as well as their rights as tenants.

To address these and other issues, SGA has considered drafting a brochure containing some information for students when looking to rent.

However, a pamphlet provided by Kansas Attor-

ney General Phill Kline is very helpful.

One important issue it touches on is a landlord's right to enter a tenants home.

It states that no landlord has the right to enter your property unannounced unless that person has been given permission by the tenant, or in case of an emergency.

If the landlord requires access to the apartment for

maintenance or showing the apartment to prospective tenants, then the tenant must be given notice and the visit must be scheduled during reasonable hours.

The seminar was coordinated by Mark Colwell and Nicole Keough, FHSU students.

Henry Schwaller, FHSU professor and owner of many rental properties around Hays, was also present as a guest speaker.